

do not serve on a church board, school boards or the hundreds of other boards that are out there. They don't have the opportunity or possibly they don't choose to do so. However, when jury duty calls the majority of the citizens feel this I should do and basically they do it. Now I will touch on the cost of this just a little bit. This is going to cost Douglas County over \$600,000 in two years, \$600,000 of increased taxes to the county. It will affect other counties in the same percent. It's a 50 percent increase in the fees this year and a 100 percent increase in the fees next year. So I ask you to consider. People can be relieved from jury duty if they so desire. I would like to ask you to consider the increase in taxes that it's going to cost each county. And I ask you to oppose the legislation to raise the fees. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Wehrbein. I will recognize Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Nelson, Chizek and Crosby. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President and members, thank you. Two answers to that, the questions raised. One of the reasons that I think this is important. We have expanded the juror...prospective juror list quite a bit when we added drivers' licenses a few years ago. And it may be true that many can get off because of various reasons. The reason my Clerk, I don't want to get her in trouble, the reason she brought it to me is because she was the one that fields the complaints and many prospective jurors have complained to her about the reasons that they have had, whether it's truck drivers or what. I have a long list. I have her testimony. I have a long list of reasons that people have said. So even though there may be reasons to get off, you might look at it another way and say most people want to do their jury duty, why should they have to beg off because of financial hardship? Perhaps they ought to be allowed to serve and have only a fair reimbursement and that's what I would call it. A fair reimbursement ought to be realistic. And so I will answer more later but I simply wanted to get into the fact that...into the issue of the fact that in our American system if we're going to have democracy working, it not only ought to be probably a responsibility and obligation to serve but, on the other hand, it ought to be...it ought not to be an undue burden of those that don't have other compensation and that mentioned by Senator Haberman was employers. But my Clerk estimated it 30 to 40 percent in our county and I would